

**TENNESSEE
BOARD OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**

**POLICY REGARDING APPLICATIONS
WITH CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS**

Applicants whose application or Criminal Background Check reveals a single misdemeanor conviction need not appear before the Board if more than three (3) years have elapsed between the date of the conviction and the date of application, unless the underlying facts or circumstances suggest to the Board Consultant a need for further inquiry.

Applicants whose application or Criminal Background Check reveals a felony conviction, less than five (5) years prior to the date of application **MUST** appear before the Board.

If an applicant's application or Criminal Background Check reveals either of the following and the Board Consultant determines that the Board would benefit from having the applicant being referred to the Tennessee Medical Foundation for an evaluation prior to being interviewed, then the Board Consultant may make such a referral prior to the Board interviewing the applicant:

- (1) more than one misdemeanor conviction, regardless of the date; or
- (2) a misdemeanor conviction that occurred less than three (3) years prior to the date of application; or
- (3) a felony conviction, more than five (5) years prior to the date of application;

If the Tennessee Medical Foundation evaluation results recommend monitoring or any other additional step, then the applicant **MUST** appear before the Board with such evaluation results.

If the Tennessee Medical Foundation evaluation results do **NOT** recommend monitoring or any other further steps, then the Board empowers the Board Consultant to issue the applicant a license with no further restrictions or steps.

If the applicant would prefer to appear before the Board concerning his or her application rather than first obtaining a Tennessee Medical Foundation evaluation, then the applicant may appear before the Board without obtaining such an evaluation and the Board can determine the next steps, including the possible need for a Tennessee Medical Foundation evaluation.

Approved by the Tennessee Board of Physician Assistants on
February 16, 2024.